

## ABSTRACT

An aerial work apparatus having a boom mounted to a base, a platform attached to the distal end of the boom, a boom mechanism for positioning the platform, a boom control module mounted with respect to the platform, a vertical load-sensing mechanism mounted at the platform for measuring the platform load and generating a load signal based on that measurement, and a controller operationally attached to the boom mechanism and boom control module. The controller receives the load signal and at least one position signal relating to the position of the platform and generates at least one control signal based thereon. The boom mechanism is controlled by the boom control module through the controller. Preferably, the load-sensing mechanism is held in position by a vertical support column attached at the distal end of the boom so that the mechanism fully supports a platform support member attached to the platform.